

FAITHFULNESS

1. FAITHFULNESS wholly realizes His wonderful indwelt presence.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwells in you? (NASB)

2. FAITHFULNESS means abiding in all the inspired words of Jesus and His Apostles

☒ Recognizing that the bible is a spiritual message.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

☒ Health, happiness and prosperity are not the theme of the word of God.

Mat 16:26 "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

☒ Rather, personal nurturing and family growth with an aim towards eternity are in play.

1 Tim 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

☒ Our oft time sicknesses only remind us of an eventual end of life here, then what?

➤ We must come to know our immortality and timeless existence somewhere, but where?

Mat 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

☒ We must begin today to see the bible as more than a story book.

☒ Our true "work" for the living God is always of a spiritual nature.

John 6:28-29 They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" (29) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

3. FAITHFULNESS reflects the attributes of the divinity and humanity of Christ Jesus as much as is humanly possible.

John 6:53-58 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. (54) "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. (55) "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. (56) "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (57) "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. (58) "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died (603,550); he who eats this bread will live forever."

4. FAITHFULNESS purposely transforms selfishness into selflessness.

☒ There is a great danger in the modern concept of self-love.

➤ Some synonyms for Self-Love: Self-Esteem, Self-Image, Positive Self-Image, Self-Regard, Self-Worth, Self-Awareness, Personal Rights, Self-Fulfillment, Self-Confidence, most of which leave God out completely.

➤ Rather than Self-Centered we become first and foremost God-Centered then Other-Oriented.

- This does not mean elimination of all Self-Evaluation—it is always helpful.

Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

- We find our confidence and adequacy in God.

2 Cor 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

 We must harness ego by acknowledging it is a constant struggle to do so!

- **2 Cor 10:12** For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

5. FAITHFULNESS constantly produces integrity, today, when no one is watching but God Himself.

 Integrity deals with possessing sound moral principles, such as uprightness, honesty, sincerity, moral soundness, constancy, candor, trustworthiness, loyalty, merit, etc. Without integrity we are all hot air & lose our effectiveness for our Lord.

- **Pro 2:7** He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk in integrity,
- **Pro 10:9** He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out.
- **Pro 11:3** The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.

6. FAITHFULNESS is genuine, authenticity all the time with everyone.

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days*, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

7. FAITHFULNESS beholds the invisible Christ.

1 Peter 1:8-9 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (9) obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

8. FAITHFULNESS means correcting our vision from an imperfect church to a perfect Christ. She is only the bride through the Groom's eyes.

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

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